

U.S.EPA

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I am writing in response to the permit application being filed by Penneco Environmental Solutions. LLC (with corporate offices at 6608 Route 22 Delmont, PA 15626) This application is being filed for a "Residual Waste Transfer Facility" and expansion to its existing facility located at 1815 Old Leechburg Rd. New Kensington, Pa 15068

The current facility on this property has been receiving 2,268,000 gallons of oil and gas waste water also referred to as flowback per month beginning back in March of 2021. All seemed to be going okay at its initial startup other than new truck traffic and noises twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Then in May of 2021 the EPA approved doubling the amount of waste acceptance to 4,536,000 gallons per month. It was soon after was when this facility had it first of many failures.

The owner of this facility failed to report the packer failure the right agency in the time required. This is unacceptable for this industry, let alone people like myself who depend on these companies and their knowledge and word that they are doing everything legit. It shows me that the well operators own versions could be by far to benefit themselves so they can continue to operate uninterrupted.

DEP Don Hegburg told me it was mechanical packer failure. I believe he said somewhere at a depth around 700 feet. After learning this, I realized when this happened it resulted immediately in well contamination complaints. The contamination that our wells received in this direct area may very well may have been caused by this failed packer. I have the [REDACTED] family that lives on my road above me that had immediate discoloration coming from their well water with a pretty awful smell they were saying. [REDACTED] spoke at your hearing on 8/30. I believe they stopped using their well. I did get to see the orange tinted sample at a Plum Borough meeting. I also will include other testimonies from the [REDACTED] family who live directly above me later in this letter. (And as an attached document) You have heard the [REDACTED] testimony and many others at the past Plum meeting we had with your agency. I still feel there may be many more families in the immediate area that may not even realize that their water and or air is being compensated. Let alone all the health issues that may be brewing for their futures. Even though the DEP is trying its best to make everyone in Plum aware, I feel this needs to be the well owner's responsibility to notify or to at least absorb the cost for the man hours of the tax payer's dollars. Instead of just walking away and saying "it has to go somewhere". That's just another way to show me how one these officers that work for Penneco and their knowledge of this industry. I would expect and answer like this more from a child than a professional.

My issue occurred back in the middle of September 2021. I was awoken by a really awful acidic, chemical smell that somehow enter my home. My eyes, throat, nostrils and any exposed skin was burning, really bad and I also had a pretty bad headache. I had trouble breathing, almost like suffocating. I checked on my girlfriend and the dogs and got outside to see what was happening, also thinking that fresh air could help with the issue that was happening to us. I understand that there are numerous chemicals in this industry and had a pretty major concern that this is what directly affected us. This concern made me start to file my own complaints with all agencies and contacts listed.

- DEP, Don Hegburg
- Nick Cato (DEP Air Quality Control)
- EPA New Stanton office, spoke to Tom Morris.
- Pittsburgh Poison Center, referred me to Allegheny County Health Department.
- Allegheny County Health Department, Stephanie Hasanali, Division of Environmental Health Epidemiology.
- Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH)
- Plum Police Department Officer Rupert
- Plum Borough Board

10/7/21 Plum Borough Police Department Officer Rupert was here and I filed a complaint against Penneco. The officer did come into my home and noticed the unusual smell in my basement. This is when my Geothermal Water Furnace was located at that time. I asked if he could email me a copy of the complaint which I am still waiting for. I realize the local police force have no training what so ever in the oil and gas industry and the severity of the issues these facilities are capable of causing, so I probably had the officer pretty confused.

10/18/21 I also contacted my primary care doctor Dr. [REDACTED] for testing. He was very concerned on me living so close to this facility and told me that we need to move away from this Injection Well as soon as I am able. He explained they are not good for us to be around. I explained to him what happened to me. He then referred me to an ENT, Dr. [REDACTED]

Dr. [REDACTED] ran numerous tests and tried to correct my disorder. The MRI cleared me of any tumors that have been known to cause my disorder. She has also prescribed numerous steroid treatments trying to bring my smell back to normal. It is now almost one year to the date that I have been diagnosed with Parosmia. The smell, headaches, and taste have still not changed. They are pretty awful. (Wet ashes or a sewage smell is the closest I can pinpoint what I smell on every breath I take, every awaken minute. A stinging in the nostrils too. And the food I use to love to cook and enjoy, what a treat, heat tends to amplify the stench. I am currently in the process of making additional appointments with several other specialists that are more familiar with the effects transient expose to chemicals in the fracking industry, and if they could prove this is what directly caused this disease I now have. I believe they have in the past.

I know it may not mean much to anyone. But the two things I enjoy the most in life is my work and cooking my food. I worked from home for the past 17 years roughly 14-16 hours a day. If indeed this Parosmia was caused by this industry, then they wrecked my life. Until you actually live through what I live with everyday now, there is just no way to understand. I am still concerned of further health issues that may result from this.

If proven, I will then be filing criminal charges also against the several fracking companies and their negligence that could be contaminating the air or water that passes across or under my property. Pennsylvania's Attorney General has been a big help at correcting problems in this Industry. I am hoping I can turn to them for help if so.

NOTE: The primary component of natural gas is methane, which is odorless when it comes directly out of the gas well. In addition to methane, natural gas typically contains other hydrocarbons such as ethane, propane, butane, and pentanes. Raw natural gas may also contain water vapor, hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), carbon dioxide, helium, nitrogen, and other compounds. If the concentration of H₂S in the gas is high enough, there may also be a "rotten egg" odor associated with the gas. Penneco also has several of their own shallow wells on this same property that currently are still producing natural gas. I am concerned that one of these wells, from one or more of these fracking companies may have caused my Parosmia. Being I live in here in this rural zoned area, there is no other industry even close that could produce this type of vapors.

My main concern is to find out what caused this odor. On October 2nd I emailed a complaint to the DEP. The complaint went as follows: "My water well that provides water to my Geothermal Furnace seems to be emitting a strong acid like odor into my home. It may have very well been the cause that was irritating to my eyes, skin and nostrils. I believe my water well may be contaminated with the chemicals they are pumping into the Penneco Sadat #3 injection well. If so, this is a real concern to me. They have been unloading into the well for the last few weeks all hours of the day and night to the Penneco Sadat #3 injection well about a quarter mile above my home. I have not been running my furnace for fear it is indeed contamination. The well water that passes through my Geothermal Furnace discharges into a creek in front of my home. Being I have worked in the gasoline and diesel business for the last 40 years I am familiar with a lot of the regulations for ground and water contamination also. Please email me or call me as soon as possible."

Don Hegburg from the DEP called and made an appointment to come to my home.

10/6/21 DEP came to my home with two other representatives and did the first samplings of many that they took over the next few months from my well. They noticed a strong, referring to it as a petroleum odor. This also confirms what my colleagues told me when he was in my basement right around the same time. In their early investigation they felt they needed to investigate where the unusually high amounts of methane can be coming from. Later they told me Penneco and EQT are two of the companies working in this area. Over the next 6 months and numerous visits by the DEP to my home, we have been documenting the methane readings they are taking have been ranging anywhere from 10% gas to as high as 42-46% gas it is "directly related to the gas and oil industry, not coal gas". (See photo of actual DEP readings)

I have been in the Gasoline, Diesel fuel business for nearly 40 years. We have strict regulations we are required to follow. From a description of the products (MSDS Sheets) we carry on the trucks to documenting and reporting any type of spills over 25 gallons. Yet these injection facilities are accepting some of the same chemicals we see on our MSDS Sheets. I don't understand how they are clearly allowed to dump them into the ground beneath our homes with no reporting, no BOL's required, or no such documentation of the exact amount of chemicals or what is being hauled in any of these bottle trucks. I realize they like to say they are diluted with million gallons of water but understand that there have already been trucks in this industry that carry loads with higher amounts of chemical concentrations than others. We know that there are numerous chemicals used in the fracking business. Some of the more serious ones in this fracking waste are what concern me. Benzene, Toluene, Xylene are just a few and are all used to make gasoline. We also see ones like Sulfuric Acid and Hydrogen Sulfide, Phenol. These are the ones that can permanently damage the neurological system if the vapors

come in contact with humans. I can't help to wonder if one or more of these very well may be of came in contact with me while sleeping at my home that night.

Being exposed to toxic chemicals used in the fracking industry can and has caused Parosmia. Also, these same chemicals that are used in this industry have also caused death. And now let's add the everyday stress from living near these facilities. And the permits that are granted by the EPA and the DEP. Agencies that I always assumed were here for the safety of the daily water I drink and the air I breath.

During some of the DEP's investigation, on one of his visits to the Penneco Injection Facility on or around 10/13/2021, Don Hegburg made me aware he was told by a Penneco employee that they were burning off some pretty harsh stuff at this Injection site a while back. Don asked me if I smelt what could be like rotten eggs back then. What now concerns me, maybe they could have been burning off Hydrogen Sulfide, or some other highly toxic chemical on their property? This industry has been known to do this by using some sort an Acid Gas Burner and if the fumes somehow got in contact with me? (I have friends in this business that have actually witnessed this being done at other facilities they worked at) I am wondering if there were any samples or scrapings taken from the burner used to be diagnosed to see what actually was being burnt off? If indeed it was some sort of toxic chemicals? I am still investigating if this could have been when the transient exposer vapors that I feel crossed my property that could have caused Parosmia. My geographic location to this facility sits roughly about 400 feet below and about a quarter mile away. There is a creek valley that makes a perfect funnel that connects myself and the Not responsive based on response based to Penneco's facility. The DEP has already made me aware that chemical vapors are heavier than air and tend to stay low to the ground. They also linger in our homes, cars, storage sheds and basically every nook and cranny air can find. Also, that nights tend to be worst when the air becomes still.

1/19/22 Plum Borough Zoning Board Hearing. I have a copy of the hearing transcripts containing some sworn testimonies from several people who live above me, one family directly above me, on my road that were also complaining about chemical and very bad acid odors in the air that made your eyes water and leaves a bad taste in their mouths. This also cause them to have to leave their home at times. (See attachment)

I assume that you already know that this Injection Well is the very first commercial Injection Well in the state of Pennsylvania. They receive numerous gallons of Residual Waste from numerous states. When these companies are required to govern themselves, I sometimes wonder how many companies report the exact truth of every violation they break. If any of them have a track record that this company appears to have, who knows what is being offloaded at this facility.

This is the main reason I do not want to see this permit approved for this Penneco Sadat facility. I see the damage that the current Injection Facility has caused to us and if it is because of their negligence, then they need to be shut down immediately until they are reviewed for this and the other existing outstanding issues are resolved. They already have a pretty bad track record of numerous past incidents and violations against them at numerous facilities they own and maintain. It is obvious to me that they are unqualified to be into this business, or just have trouble reporting their problems in a timely manner. At this Injection Facility, they have already failed to notify the EPA and the DEP in the timely matter when they did not report their WOS-AS1-X packer failure. I can't help but feel that they were starting to cover up their problems at this Injection facility. If not mistaken, they are responsible to monitor their actions and have already proven they are unable to report themselves. I can't help to feel

how incompetent this company and some of its officers are. I do not want to see anyone else around this facility become damaged like my health, my home and property already have.

I want to go back to the meeting on 8/30/22 Dr. Non-responsive based on rule mentioned how my water well that is used to operate my geothermal furnace was compensated. I have had this furnace removed and replaced back in May of this year and is now running on propane. Just additional costs this facility is creating for me. I was deathly afraid to use the current Geothermal unit in fear of an explosion or possible being poisoned again if this was the case.

I want to assure you that I am not against the Fracking Industry. This provides the energy for an important part of America's future. I am against the weak laws and loopholes and unsafe practices that continue to make this industry unsafe for the health of all Americans.

I also am concerned, that the DEP and EPA that we know are already severely understaffed to be able to follow up with all of the investigations required in this industry in a proper and timely manner. I now see this putting the health of the citizens at risk. The Attorney General has also mentioned how these officers, trained at our government expense, have been poached away to much higher-paying jobs in the oil and gas industry. This is mentioned back in the court of common pleas Allegheny County Investigating Grand Jury Report No. 1 Filed June 22, 2020 (see attached link below)

<https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FINAL-fracking-report-w.responses-with-page-number-V2.pdf>

I now see my government is adding 87,000 IRS agents. I see no mention of DEP or EPA agents being added. I can't help feeling that money tops health, on their priority list.

Today's EPA and DEP challenges are unlike the steel industry cleanups back in the sixties and seventies. Back then you could see the smog in the air, the iron oxides that laid on the hoods of cars and the oil and chemical sheens on the three rivers. Today's challenges are gases and vapors that you can't see and as far as the really ugly looking fluids and numerous chemicals that vanish into Injection wells quicker than they can settle in ponds at fracking sites.

I can't stress enough how important that the EPA and DEP needs to continue to grow along with all these changes of today's fracking industry. With these added challenges these two agencies face and the uncertainties of what numerous chemicals they are actually looking for may be another reason to reevaluate this industry. The environmental challenges of this industry today are more out of sight so let's not make them more out of mind.

I do however notice a Superfund to protect people's health. The PFAS "Chemicals as Hazardous Substances" It's nice to know that they are going to hold the polluters accountable for their actions. I am hoping this will be a start to making this fracking industry safer for all of our health.

Please, if there is any other information you may require, I have kept a journal from the opening of this facility. The numerous hours I work from my home that overlooks the bottom of Old Leechburg road has given me the opportunity to make people aware of what it is like to live in the day and life of an Injection Well.

Thank you for your time, and please can you acknowledge that you received this email.

Non-responsive based on revised scope.